

## HELP PROTECT WISCONSIN'S ASH TREES FROM EMERALD ASH BORER

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an exotic pest, native to Asia, currently threatening the ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) tree resource in the Great Lakes region. The emerald ash borer belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles (*Buprestidae*). Since its recent discovery in southeastern Michigan during 2002, it has continued to spread in Michigan throughout a 20-county area. In addition, isolated infestations have been reported in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland and Windsor, Ontario. Transmission of this pest is accelerated by the inadvertent transportation of larvae in logs, firewood and nursery stock. The subcortical (beneath the bark) feeding habits of emerald ash borer larvae cause extensive damage to an ash tree's vascular system, depriving the crown of water and nutrients. The emerald ash borer appears to attack both stressed and healthy trees, typically killing its host in 1-3 years. In Michigan, this insect has caused wide-ranging mortality, including white, green and black ash species. Likewise, Wisconsin's ash resource is threatened by emerald ash borer infestation. Forest inventory and analysis data shows that Wisconsin has approximately 628,000,000 ash trees in its forests. As of August 2004 the emerald ash borer has not been found in Wisconsin, but it may already be here. We need you to be on the lookout for this pest. Early detection, isolation and eradication are our best defenses against this pest.

There are a few simple precautionary measures you can take to prohibit the transmission and spread of this pest into Wisconsin.

- Be on the lookout for this pest! For images that will aid in identification, see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/index.html#6>
- Be cautious when transporting or purchasing firewood by knowing where it came from. Never bring firewood from a known emerald ash borer infested area into Wisconsin.
- Keep an eye on the ash trees near your surroundings and maintain tree vigor by watering trees if the weather has been overly dry.
- Report any suspected emerald ash borer infestations (if 2 or more symptoms or signs are present) by contacting the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on the emerald ash borer Hotline at 1-800-462-2803.

*This information comes from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry website.*

*For the complete text, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/index.html#6>.*